(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to emphasize the need of NAAC accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body set up under Section 12(ccc) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, has reported that as on 4th February, 2008 it has assessed and accredited 140 universities and 3523 colleges.

(b) and (c) Presently, the process of assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions by NAAC is voluntary. In order to create awareness amongst various stakeholders, including colleges, the NAAC has helped formation of State Level Quality Assurance Coordination Committee in 21 States and has brought out over 175 publications. It also disseminates information through its website, print and electronic media. With a view to cover a large number of institutions the NAAC has adopted a new methodology of assessment and accreditation from April, 2007.

Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education

321. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), at present, in higher education of the country;

(b) the world GER at present;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase GER during each of the last three years and the results achieved therefrom;

(d) the reasons for very low level of GER continuing in higher education despite the above steps; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is about 11%, as compared to world average of 23.2%.

(c) to (e) Budgetary allocation for higher education has been progressively increased during the last three years. In order to achieve the targeted GER of 15% by the end of Eleventh Plan, a substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Government for increasing State outlays on higher education, setting up of new colleges in low GER districts through partnership with State Governments are also some of proposed steps for achieving higher GER.